(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c). The Central Government on the recommendation of the CBT, EPF periodically declares the rate of interest to be credited to the accounts of PF Subscribers. The rate of interest at present is 12% per annum. Keeping in view the overall interest of national economy the present interest rate is considered adequate.

Closure of Durgapur unit of HFC

4412. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to close down the Durgapur Unit of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to revive this unit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). In 1988, the consultants had recommended revamp/rehabilitation of the operating units (except Namrup-III) of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation. For the Durgapur unit, the cost involved was Rs. 171.38 cores, which was updated to Rs. 213.51 cores as in February, 1990. Since very large investments were involved, no final decision was taken.

Reprocessing Technology for Plutonium

4413. SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether plutonium is to be separated from nuclear waste and this process involve very high cost;

(b) whether this reprocessing technology cannot be kept secret from the rest of the world;

(c) if so, the names of the countries in the world which at present have this facility;

(d) whether Iran also has such a technology; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not supplying a 10 MW reactor by India to Iran and thereby entering into high technology exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) For any application requiring use of Plutonium, reprocessing of spent fuel discharged from the Nuclear Reactors, is a pre-requisite. Indian experience in reprocessing shows that the costs in India are significantly lower than those quoted in developing countries pursuing this technology.

(b) In view of proliferation concerns related to plutonium, the reprocessing technology is not open to international cooperation though the basic chemical process flowsheet itself is well known.

(c) Very few countries in the world are known to be having large scale commercial reprocessing technology. Besides India, USA, UK, France, USSR, Germany, Japan, Belgium and Italy are known to be having

this technology though not all of them are actively pursuing it.

(d) Iran has not declared capability in this technology.

(e) Supply of research reactor to Iran is at an exploratory stage and is not related to reprocessing technology.

Flats/Plots to SCs/STs

4414. SHRI JANGBIR SINGH:
PROF. PREM DHUMAL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a backlog in the allotment of plots and flats including S.F.S. flats in the 25 per cent quota of reservation in all the schemes, category-wise separately, including registrations;

(b) if so, the total number of backlog in the allotment of residential plots, flats including the Rohini Residential Scheme and S.F.S. flats etc. scheme-wise, category-wise separately;

(c) whether the Government have issued instruction in April, 1989 to the DDA to cover up the backlog in residential plots, flats and other S.F.S. flats, etc;

(d) if so the details thereof;

(e) whether the DDA has followed these instructions and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the Government will be able to get these instructions implemented through the DDA.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(c) and (d). In April, 89 the Government had decided and conveyed to the DDA that the DDA should invite applications only from the members of SC/ST in respect of such schemes for flats and plots whereby full reserved quota has not been utilised for want of sufficient number of registrants belonging to these categories. This decision of the Government was to be applicable to all categories of housing schemes i.e.e Janata, LIG and MIG and SFS.

(e) and (f). For covering the backlog under the New Pattern Scheme, 1979 the DDA had invited applications in November-December, 89 exclusively from persons from SC/ST categories for allotment of 20,000 flats of Janta, LIG and MIG category under a Scheme called Ambedkar Awas Yojana. The reasons for not covering the backlog under other housing schemes are being ascertained from the DDA and the same will be placed on the table fo the House in due course of time.

Closure of Public Sector units in West Bengal

4415. PROF. MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to close down or off-load seven public sector units in West Bentgal;

(b) whether the sale of these units to private agencies is being contemplated;

(c) if so, whether any consultations with the State Government or workers' representatives in the matter have been held; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?